4701 Sangamore Road
Pathesda, Maryland 20816
June 1, 1982

Mr. Jack Collins, President American Institute of Numismatic Research 2840 Indiana Avenue South Gate, California 90280

> Re: "Walter Breen's Encyclopedia of United States Half Cents, 1793 - 1857"

Dear Mr. Collins:

At the recent March, 1982 Early American Copper club meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio, where the manuscript of the above unpublished book was available for inspection to the public, I availed myself of the priviledge and have the following comments.

There is a great amount of information which has been playiarized from my 1971 copyrighted book "American Half Cents". The most prominent examples are the idea that 1797 dated coins were struck in 1800; and the placing of an 1803 dated coin as a coin struck in 1805. There are many other cases of playiarizing through out the manuscript, but the aforementioned are the most glaring.

My basis for making the above statement is that on numerous occasions, your author has made available to the public certain proposed manuscripts for many of his numerous books which have never been published. At the October, 1981 EAC meeting in Long Beach, California there was made available a proposed manuscript for the grand project of an "encyclopedia of All US Coinage". The section on Half Cents was available. I noted that despite my 1971 book, the 1797's were considered to be the first 1797 dated coins struck; and that the 1803 in question was considered to be the first 1803 struck. Also, at this meeting in Long Beach, at one point your author was forced by other persons present to read certain sections of my book in regard to 1797. Prior to this time, and particularly the evening before at his "educational forum", your author had made it quite plain he had never read my book and was continuing his program of non-recognition of the existance of my book

Back in 1973, in the pages of "Pennywise" there was a debate between your author and myself over the 1797 dated Half Cents. Your author made his position that the low head 1797's were without any doubt in his mind, the first 1797's coined. This position was also set forth in another unpublished book "The Ugly Duckling" (circa 1966) which has been made available via photocopy to most Half Cent numismatists. Thus it is clearly evident that prior to October, 1981, your author had indeed never read my 1971 book "American Half Cents". Your author has also stated on many occasions that he "had never seen a copy of Roger's book". This statement is totally false as he was one of the first persons to peruse my book at the EAC meeting at Kennedy Airport, NY in 1971!

Jack Collins June 1, 1982 page 2

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My primary point is that between October, 1981 and March, 1982 a remarkable metamorphosis has occured in the proposed manuscript of "Walter Breen's Encyclopedia" which can only be attributed to plagiarism from my 1971 copyrighted book "American Half Cents". Accordingly, I plan to pursue legal action against you as the publisher unless the following steps are taken.

- There is recognition of my contribution to various aspects of Half Cents in the section where this information is set forth in your proposed book as that of your author.
- 2) The standard of measure of contribution will be information in both my 1971 and 1982 copyrighted editions of "American Half Cents".
- 3) The review of my 1971 copyrighted book in your proposed book be objective and not belittling as I read in my perusal of your manuscript in March, 1982.

Your prompt attention to these matters is requested and failure to answer within one month will result in legal action.

Very truly yours,

Roger S. Cohen, Jr.

RSC/pt

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ALEXANDER & HUGHES
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BANK OF AMERICA BUILDING
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DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA 90241

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A&H

MICHAEL T. ALEXANDER GREGG B. HUGHES

ford.

July 7, 1982

Mr. Roger S. Cohen, Jr. 4701 Sangamor Road Besthesda. Maryland 20816

RE: Our Clients: Jack Collins and Walter Breen

Dear Mr. Cohen:

As you know from previous correspondence, this office represents Messrs. Collins and Breen in regard to their intellectual property rights to an unpublished manuscript on the subject of United States half cents, authored by Mr. Breen. We had corresponded with you, through Mr. Hughes of this office, on September 24, 1981.

Apparently since that date, you have not only published your own book, but have chosen to accuse Mr. Breen of plagiarizing from you! You have even had the hudspa.to.circulate.a.copy of the letter to Mr. Collins to at least six other persons in the field.

In that letter you had requested that Mr. Collins respond within one month or face legal action. Mr. Collins' first inclination was that he should not dignify your letter with a response. However, on advice of counsel, he has chosen to respond nonetheless in order to keep a clear record in the event of litigation.

Accordingly, I am attaching a copy of Mr. Breen's memorandum responding to each of the allegations in your letter. After reviewing it, I am sure you will see how unfounded your allegations are and will submit to us your written apology and retraction. In the event you do not, it will be you and not Mr. Collins who will face legal action.

Respectfully yours

MTA/m Enclosures

cc: Mr. Jack Collins

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GOD DOESNIT

TALKTO

THE PEONS

Dear Stan,

The enclosed letter from Roger S. Cohen, Jr., dated June 1, 1982, speaks for itself. My draft of a reply is attached. Jack Collins has the original of Roger Cohen's letter and a copy of this reply. I have instructed him to do nothing (aside from discussing the matter with his attorney) until he has heard from you.

This is evidently the production of a man who chooses to regard me as his rival, though I do not in any way regard him as mine. He read the ms. of Encyclopedia of U.S.Half Cents at Jack Collins's invitation, at the March 1982 EAC meeting (where I was not present), and decided to take amiss what was never so intended. His book (both 1971 and 1982 editions) attempted less and accomplished less. He seems to think thatthe timing of the announcement of my Encyclopedia was aimed at his own book; the truth is that Jack Collins had been for many years attempting to persuade me to update the two previous fragmentary manuscripts, and at least from my end the timing had everything to do with his arrangement with you, and nothing with Cohen's actions. We would have proceeded as we did whether or not Cohen published anything.

Cohen claims (in person) that I have systematically ignored his requests for research data that would have contributed to his book, that I "have had it in for him", and that I have had (as quoted in his letter) a "program of non-recognition of the existance (sic) of him my (Cohen's) book." On the contrary: the few communications I have had from this man were couched in such terms as did not make me feel under any obligation to give him unpublished researmich results, particularly as in the earlier years these were, as I knew with certainty, too incomplete to solve Cohen's problems. His writings to me in and out of the pages of Penny-Wise were, one and all, argumentative, tendentious, abrasive, and not calculated to make me willing to go to any major efforts on his behalf. My accompanying reply to his false, malicious and libelous charges of plagiarism reiterates that in my Encyclopedia of U.S.Half Cents I have credited him with his actual contributions.

YOu are invited to read his book and decide for yourself if it is anything I would have had the slightest desire to copy from. I do not have a spare copy of the manuscript, and it would take considerable time to have one xeroxed (502 pp.), quite aside from its not embodying editorial changes subsequently made, with my consent, bmy Collins and Jon Hanson and Alan Meghrig.

You know as well as I do why it is important that this be kept out of court. I am therefore asking for your advice.

Thanks,

Inhaly Rock

This is in reply to a letter from Roger S. Cohen, Jr., dated June 1, 1982, which falsely and libelously accuses me of plagiarism.

I HEREWITH DENY ANY AND ALL SUCH ALLEGATIONS, ACCUSATIONS, OR CHARGES.

My replies to his specific allegations follow.

1. Cohen says 'There is a great amount of information which has been plagiarized from my 1971 copyrighted book "American Half Cents."

Common sense will confirm to any objective observer that anyone who copies another's ideas is likely to be blamed for the other's errors.

I cannot afford any such risk. I have too much respect for scholarly courtesy to tolerate such behavior—in myself or anyone else. Detection is too easy, and the damage to my credibility would be irreparable. Accordingly, over the last thirty years, in consonance with scholarly practice of centuries, wherever I have derived information from other sources, I have credited the latter. In my Encyclopedia of U.S.Half Cents (hereinafter EHC), Roger S. Cohen Jr. is repeatedly credited as a source of specific information of many kinds.

2. Cohen cites as among 'the most prominent examples' of such alleged plagiarism 'the idea that 1797 dated coins were struck in 1800.'

I credited this very idea to him on page 171 of the ms. of EHC! In October 1981, when I began intensive work on this book, the Cohen chronology was one among several possible alternative sequences for the coins dated 1797 and struck in 1797 and later years. During ensuing weeks, many thousands of half cents became available for study and photography, becoming the database for documenting die states, planchet stock, and overstrikes. They belonged to collections, dealers' stocks, and institutions; many were unfamiliar to me, some never previously attributed, and they forced numerous revisions in my previous (unpublished) conclusions. The plan was to illustrate every known die state if a sharp enough specimen could be located. Die state evidence is absolutely crucial to emission sequence for varieties and subvarieties. At the same time, Alan Meghrig kindly loaned me documentation on early Mint ponditions, some being printed reports, the vast majority however being photocopies of documents from the National Archives, some not examined since 1951--long before I had become aware of some of the problems these could aid in solving. To decide among the possible chronologies for 1797, I had to find a sequence which would best fit and most closely correlate with (1) records of planchet shipment and preparation, (2) coin delivery dates, (3) die state evidence for all subvarieties (coins from the same dies on different planchet stock), (4) approximate numbers surviving of each variety and subvariety.

Among the coins shown me were overstrikes of the 1797-dated "Low head" type, some on cut-down cents dated 1798 or identifiable as from 1798-dated dies, some from varieties known on other grounds to have been struck in 1799. Many of these were hitherto unrecorded. Previously available overstrikes of this kind were equivocal as to whether the 1797-dated half cent die impressions preceded or followed the cent die impressions; this ambiguity was removed by the new coins, which must have been struck in 1799 or later, long after exhaustion of token streck planchets of spring 1797 which had in turn followed

earlier batches of overstrikes (cent stock planchets).

My adoption of a chronology for 1797 substantially like Cohen's is based on independent research: similar conclusions on different

evidence. I remained fully prepared to find and publish, should evidence require it, a chronology different from Cohen's or any previous attempts --as in fact I did for both 1794 and 1804. Had I published a different chronology for 1797, Cohen could justly have attacked me for inconsistency with the evidence marshaled in EHC.

3. Cohen cites also as alleged 'plagiarism' 'the placing of an 1803 dated coin as a coin struck in 1805.'

'In previous studies through 1980 I had not solved to my own satisfaction the chronology of 1803, because I had not addressed the problem of punch linkage and punch substitution for 1802-08 half cent dies as a group. This procedure became essential during preparation of EHC, resulting (with die state information derived from examination of coins as mentioned above) in the tabulation on pp. 226-7 of the ms. of EHC. The Eleven Berry die, found with obverses dated 1803 and 1805, is the twin of 1805 No. 3 reverse, and shares letter punches with it but with no other dies of 1803-4; for which reason I came to the conclusion that both reverses were made in 1805, close together in time. In addition, the obverse die of 1803 Eleven Berries shows that this use long followed its two other mulings. Both considerations dictated the chronology I adopted, replacing all previous attempts, and differing (for 1804) materially from anything previously published, though agreeing in certain particulars with previous attempts by other writers including Cohen.

4. Cohen says I was 'forced by other persons present to read certain sections of my book in regard to 1797.', at the 1981 Long Beach convention

This is completely false. Various collectors asked me if I had seen the dummies or page proofs of his 1982 edition, then in preparation. I had not, and on my own time briefly looked them over in Cohen's absence. I concluded, in great disappointment, that the book answered none of my needs, that its emission sequence for 1794 was incorrect, that its emission sequences for later years were dubious, and that its failure to provide equivalents to previous attribution numbers made collectors' task more difficult than it need be.

5. Cohen says that I have 'made available to the public certain proposed manuscripts' and that they embodied an order of presentation differing from his own, but that inthe meantime, after reading his 1971 book, 'a remarkable metamorphosis has occurred in the proposed manuscript...which can only be attributed to plagiarism....'

My abandoned manuscript of 1956 and the fragment of 1966 were never 'made available to the public': they were photocopied by persons unknown, without my knowledge or consent, and against my express wishes! I was long since aware that both contained errors and gaps I had no wish to disseminate. Some of these were corrected in my Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Proof Coins, 1722-1977; others could be corrected only in the course of the abovementioned researches leading to the finished text of EHC. I deny any implied connexion with perusal of Cohen's book.

6. Cohen says 'It is clearly evident that prior to October, 1981, your author had indeed never read my 1971 book "American Half Cents." Your author has also stated on many occasions that he "had never seen a copy of Roger's book." This statement is totally false as he was one of the first persons to peruse my book at the EAC meeting at Kennedy Airport, NY, in 1971!

Leaving aside the contradictions between Cohen's first and third

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quoted sentences, and the <u>unlikelihood</u> that the mentioned meeting was held within the airport, I must regretfully interject a personal note. In 1971 I was on <u>prescribed medications</u> whose side effects were like those of the strongest antihistamines. Accordingly, my memories of that EAC meeting are not as clear as they should be. I would therefore be unable to testify under oath whether I had ever physically handled a copy of Cohen's book on that occasion. But this much I can swear to: At any EAC meeting, there would have been insufficient time to 'peruse' any book. Webster's Second International Unabridged Dictionary defines peruse as "read carefully or critically for revision or study." Brief examination of the book (1981) left me with the impression that I would have to do my own research independently of Cohen's, and that whether or not any of my results would match any of his must depend on data not printed in his book.

I do not see how this 1971 EAC meeting is germane either to his

charges or my replies.

7. Cohen demands, as a price for avoiding a lawsuit, 'recognition of my (Cohen's) contribution to various aspects of Half Cents in the section where this information is set forth in your proposed book as that of your author.'

There is no such section in EHC. Cohen'scontributions are properly footnoted as above mentioned, like everyone else's.

8. Cohen further demands 'The standard of measure of contribution will be information in both my (Cohen's) 1971 and 1982 copyrighted editions of "American Half Cents."

I do not understand what Cohen means by this, or what he is demanding. It is hardly necessary to remind anyone that my manuscript was completed before Cohen's 1982 book was published. Any reference to Cohen's 1982 edition is therefore irrelevant.

If Cohen means that he demands to be credited for all information in which his two editions agree with my book, I must respectfully decline, on the grounds that such credit lines to him would falsely and misleadingly attribute to him researches he did not cite in either edition, and conclusions I reached on grounds independent of his publications. Should any of my conclusions prove erroneous, I am certain that he would not wish to be credited with my errors!

9. Cohen further demands that 'The review of my (Cohen's) 1971 copyrighted book in your proposed book (EHC) be objective and not belittling as I (Cohen) read in my (Cohen's) perusal of your manuscript in March, 1982.'

The review in question was worded as objectively as the other 30-odd entries in that section. Nothing therein can be construed as false or prejudicial about Cohen's descriptive or historical material. For the benefit of all concerned, the relevant paragraph is copied verbatim on the following page (Appendix).

It would be a pity were this unfortunate quarrel to lead to court. No matter who might win, the result would certainly be only escalating dissension, ill will, and polarization--nothing constructive.

I invite any objective obscrver to read my book and Cohen's, and decide for himself as to the merits, if any, of Cohen's allegations. I have no doubts myself as to the result!

GOD WOULDN'T

I. From he manuscript of EHC (ms. p. 18):

"The next publication dealing at length with half cents was Roger S. Cohen Jr.'s American Half Cents, the Little Half Sisters*(Bethesda, Md., the author, November, 1971; 1,000 copies). This book has the advantage of dropped-in illustrations above the description of each individual variety -- and the disadvantage of picturing some coins so worn that critical details are obscured, notably in 1793-95, 1797, 1804-06, 1809; even Jules Reiver's photography hardly helps here. In addition, Cohen omits the proof-only years, relegating proofs of all kinds to an appendix called 'Other Half Cents,' into which category he also dumps the 1811 Mickley 'restrike', the 1837 token, electrotypes, casts, and 'other facsimiles'. Granting that proofs do belong in a separate category, this still seems a little extreme! On the other hand, his book does quote Archives records of planchet shipments and deliveries of finished coins, helping to substantiate his theories about quantities minted of particular dates (very different from figures given in official reports). A revision is in press."

*"The subtitle is from Dr. Warren Lapp, who drew his inspiration from Paul Carter's 'The Unwanted Little Sisters,' Penny-Wise III:43 (March 1969)."

II. From the manuscript of EHC (ms. pp. 225-7)

04.5--04.F

+04.4--04.F 04.5--04.F 3

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"Here, then, is the sequence of die combinations, struck between the beginning of 1804 and the late 1806-early 1807. Notations like 04.1 = Obverse 1 of 1804, 04.A = 1804 Reverse A; a dagger (♣) means that the die in question was so badly damaged that it could not be repaired, and was discarded, ending that die combination. For convenience, both Gilbert and CMM equivalents are given.

```
"DIES
                  CMM
1803.2--04.A
               3
                  3
                        States I--III.
                        States IV through VII alternating with the 1803
 04.1--04.A
 03.2--04.A
              3
                  3
                        die--probably more than once. Both dies set aside.
 04.2--04.B
             10
                 4
                        Low 4. Perfect and cracked obv. and rev.
 †04.2--04.A
                        Low 4. Rim break over RTY.
 04.1--04.A
              6
                        States VIII, IX alternating with the 1803 die.
                  3
 +03.2--04.A+
              3
                        States IX. X.
 04.1--04.B
                  3
                        Shortly after this combination began, obverse die
                        was injured by striking a bolt, becoming "Spiked
                        Chin".
 04.1a-04.B† 11
                        Rev: shattered. "Spiked Chin."
 04.1a-04.C+ 9
                  7
                        Rev. broke heavily at rim.
                        Rev. broke heavily at rim.
 04.1a-04.D+ 8
                  6
                        Obv. broke above LIBE to rim.
+04.1a-04.E
                  8
+04.3--04.E
                   9
                        Obv. broke above RTY to rim.
  04.4--04.E+ 4
                  10
                        Rev. broke down at R and wreath.
                      Issues of 1805
 05.1--04.F
                  1
                        Stemless. Obv. with broken R as on 1804 obs.
             2 13
                        Perfect obv. die. Plain 4. Obv. cracking.
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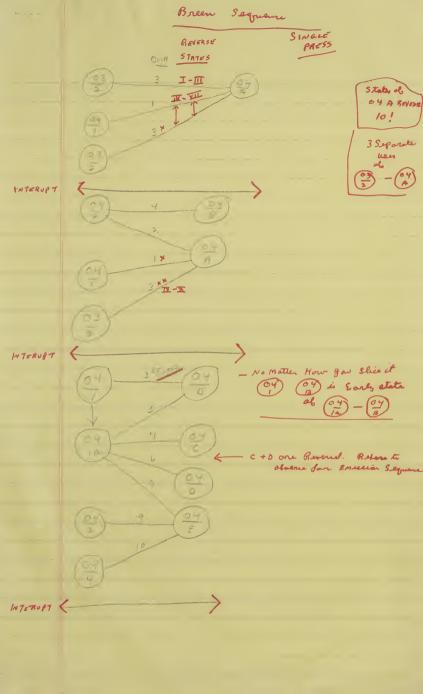
Obv. clashed, rusted, broken at rim.

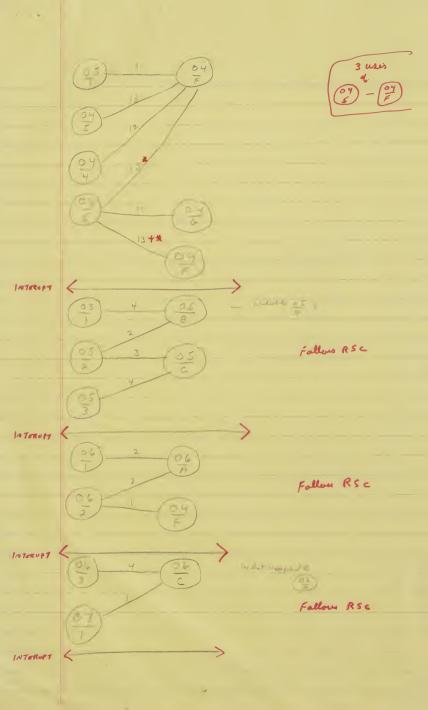
Cracked obv. die. Rev. rim crumbling.

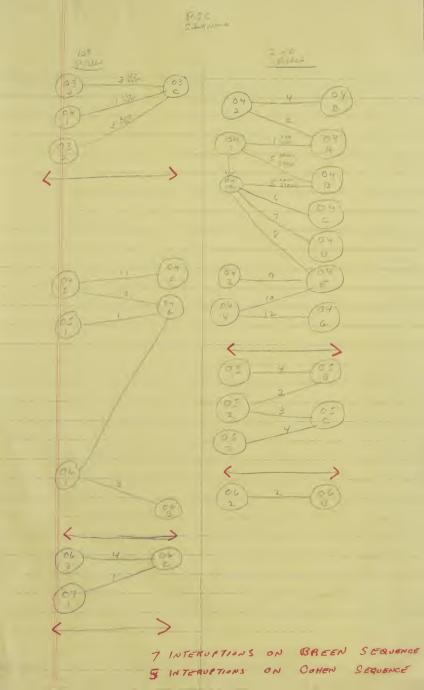
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G CMM
  "DIES
                          Rev. buckled.
                1 11
 04.5 -- 04.G
                          Obv. cracked, rusted, borders gone.
Rev. 1803.D, twin of 1805.C. Eleven Berries.
                  13
+04.5--04.F
 03.1 -- 05.B
                1
                   4
                          Sm.5, stems. Normal R, unlike 1804 obvs.
                4
                    2
 05.2--05.B
                          Rev. to vault.
                          Obv. severely buckled, cracked.
                    3
--- 05.2--05.C
                          Large 5. Obv. shattered, rev. rim break.
+ 05.3 -- 05.C+
                    4
                      Coinage Suspended
                          Sm. 6, stems. Obv. clashed, rusted, cracked.
                    2
+06.1--06.A
                2
                          Sm. low 6, stems. Rev. "cud" break.
                    3
 06.2 -- 06.A+
                          Stemless. Rev. rim breaks advanced. Obv. clashed.
                1
                    1
  06.2--04.F十
                          Lg. 6, stems. Obv. cracked through ERTY. Rev.
                    3
                3
+06.3--06.C
                          held for 1807 use.
                          Obv. breaks at rim, rev. wears down.
                    1
 07.1--06.C
                1
```

"I placed the group of six combinations beginning with the stemless 1805 before the group of four beginning with the 1803 Eleven Berries because this 1805 obverse was made earlier; it shares the broken R punch with several 1804 obverses, whereas the other two 1805-dated obverses do not."

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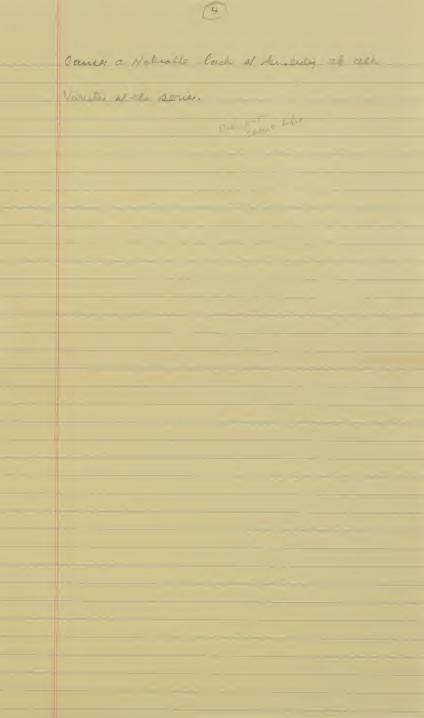
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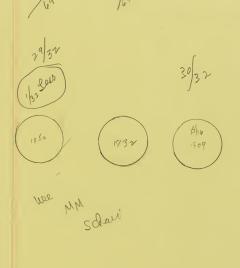
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Dr. Sheldon After 35 Years

Walter Breen

Possibly more than any other individual in American numismatics, Dr. William H. Sheldon (1898-1977) changed history, leaving his mark on myriads of coins and hundreds of thousands of minds. Now that 35 years have elapsed since his original EARLY AMERICAN CENTS project, and over a quarter century since PENNY WHIMSY, it may be time to take a closer look at Our Hero. Preferably this would be without allowing a tradition of uncritical admiration to distort our perceptions of him and what he has done for numismatics – or to it.

Sheldon will be remembered for his rarity scale and for his numerical grading scale, long after his contribution to human constitutional psychology has been forgotten, long after his variety sequences have been corrected, long after his 'science of cent values' has been superseded by other research. It is time to examine all these more closely than his admirers have dared, or than his detractors have been able to do. As this man was one of my mentors during the 1950's. I feel a special obligation to contribute to this reevaluation. It isn't a matter of the evil that men do lives after them, the good is oft interred with their bones! Instead, it is a necessary assessment of his strengths and weaknesses: of his overall place in the history of the sciences. For after all, numismatics is not an art but a science, one of the bridge sciences (like Shelden's constitutional psychology itself), integrating history, economics, metallurgy, and fine arts. And without such repeated checkups, any science is apt to stop being part of the overall self-correcting system for asymptotically approximating touth, for manning a sector of the Universe in increasing accuracy without dietentions due to wishful thinking. (Eon a taste of what has happened to sciences without such conutiny, nemember Piltdown Many look at what happened to Lysenkoist Soviet biology in the 1950's: think of the fate of Sin Cyril Burt's and Mangaret Mead's works; shudder at the monstrous excesses and distortions of lereationism'. A readable account of numerous similar pious frauds is in BETRAYERS OF THE TRUTH by Wm. J. Broad and Nicholas Wade - published in 1983 by Simon & Schuster of New York,)

As a teenager, I first became acquainted with Dr. Sheldon's name in a numismatic context in the 1947 ANA Convention catalogue, where Kosoff (Sic) auctioned the Emest Henderson ('Sheraton') cent collection. By 1949, I was familiar with Sheldon't earlier books: PSYCHOLOGY AND THE PROMETHEAN WILL; VARIETIES OF HUMAN PHYSIQUE: VARIETIES OF TEMPERAMENT; and VARIETIES OF DELINQUENT YOUTH. But it did not occur to me, even then, to assume that the illustrious constitutional psychologist, the man who had given the language the terms. Lendomorph!, "mesomorph!, and lectomorph!, the author of books which I felt had helped me to understand myself better, was also the author of a book on large cents.

When EARLY AMERICAN CENTS finally appeared in 1949, with a Harper & Bros. imprint and a dustjacket citing those same books on constitutional psychology, I was startled – and overjoyed. I had read the Crosby, Frossard-Hays, Chapman, and Clapp and Newcomb monographs on particular dates of cents, and I wondered why nobody had combined their findings with later discoveries to produce a single unified volume on large cents. Now here it was –

for all practical purposes, an answer to prayer. I could see that Sheldon was an authentic polymath, someone whom I could respect and admire more than any narrow specialist, someone who could write scientific books readably. But not even then did I dream that my study of large cents would entangle my career with Sheldon's.

In the meantime, I had been corresponding with John J. Ford, Jr. After I left the VA hospital in 1950, Ford arranged for me to come to NYC to meet Charles Wormser, Wayte Raymond, and others. The others proved to include Sheldon's collaborator Homer Downing, Dorothy Paschal, C. Douglas Smith, and Dr. Sheldon himself. These meetings took place on December 2, 1950, activated the same month that my first letter to THE NUMISMATIST appeared in print. That day was the turning point in my life, leading to my first job (doing Archives research for Wayte Raymond), and in turn to Sheldon becoming my mentor, to may working for New Netherlands, learning to write auction eatalogues, attributing over 30,000 unpicked early cents! and collaborating with how Sheldon on PENNY WHIMSY. I was beginned because the lost this cherry to Dear the Court of the Court of the Dear the Court of the Court of the Dear the Court of the Court of the Dear the Dear the Dear the Court of the Dear the Dea

much time with Sheldon, both in his office at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center and in the Riverside Drive apartment he chared with Derethy Paschal. where he displayed his decades old tennis trophies. He talked: I listened and asked questions - about coins, about his constitutional psychology, about his worldview, about many other controversial issues. I cherrypicked any number of rare cent varieties and sold some of them to him, some to Mrs. Paschal after he managed to get the cent bug to bite her, and later I spent time going over what were to become the texts of PENNY WHIMSY and ATLAS OF MEN, going through complete photographs (curiously, he would never show his own nor explain why not, and I neven saw him even in short sleeves), learning his techniques for evaluating them. I saw him as possibly on the path to solving several kinds of human problems too big for any single specialty; as someone I could learn much from, in and out of coins. I felt that I could not stay in coins fulltime, that sooner or later I would have to learn some other scientific field in the event that the coin market could no longer provide me with a living (as in fact happened, 1968-72) - or that I could no longer endure to be around it.

In Sheldon't words, printed and spoken, I found much to admire, and much to question — though early on I began instead to question my own sanity in doubting him. After all, Sheldon was an internationally known scientist, and who can engue with solentific truth? He occasionally tried to warn me, in what I perceived as a half-hearted manner, that his opinions must not be confused with scientific truth. But he was not very careful to distinguish the two; and on some issues, I decided early not to dispute until I could cite unimpeachable scientific authorities, if them.

I began manuscripts on every American coin series, attempting to extend Sheldon's methods as far as they would go, though without trying to standardize a numerical grade scale as he had done. I found as early as 1954–56 that the basic equation of his 'science of cent values', i.e. Market Price = Basal Value x Numerical Grade, had stopped making even approximately valid predictions. No amount of juggling of basal values would make the current cent market history fit Sheldon's price theory even approximately. "(It) fails at both ends of the scale, fails when Condition Census status is ascribed even when the objective grade is low, fails in extreme rarities, fails in type coins, fails a year after any given

auction, and fails for almost any other reason you could name, or for none at all. At best, it is today of historical value, a relic of a period when the inflationary spiral had not yet become so steeply inclined to its axis." (See P-W for 7/15/1975, p. 174). This led to Sheldon writing those ten rules into PENNY WHIMSY, pp. 55-6 - Band-Aids to hold together a collapsing building. Before a year had elapsed, those rules began failing to make even approximate price predictions.

In my original manuscript for the half cent book (completed in 1956) and in various New Netherlands catalogues, I had attempted to deduce basal values for that denomination, only to find that the market obdurately refused to reflect them, not in occasional fluke exceptions, but throughout. The same proved to be true of late date cents and New Jersey coppers. What was wrong? Not the market – you can't argue with facts, particularly where the coins were known to be genuine and as described. No – it was the original Sheldon equation which had unaccountably stopped working. If this had been concocted by anyone except a scientist of Sheldon's stature, it would have been forgotten as quickly as Wall Street market prediction formulas of 1928. Sheldon never recognized this – he preferred to attribute the inconsistencies to 'dollar inflation'. (But no correction factor translating 1958 prices to '1949 dollars' or even into grams of gold made the equation work either.)

This is not to accuse Sheldon of falsifying his data. He derived his price scale from market performances of 1794 cents in many grades, 1925-45 (aliae) the coond quarter of the twentieth century!); he hypothesized a linear relationship between grade and value; he generalized it to other dates (a reasonable extrapolation, though not one proved by market research - partly because his rarity data on particular varieties were still too recent to have affected collector interest). But he could not have anticipated the Generalized Heisenberg Principle: The act of observation unpredictably changes the phenomena being observed. Like every other researcher, Sheldon was a part of the experiment, not an isolated inactive recording device; and his publications drastically affected the very market they purported to explain.

First enunciated in physics, about the behavior of electrons, this principle has been found to apply throughout the sciences. The famous Middletown! studies permanently affected the town originally used for them (Munoie, Indiana); the Hawthome Bank Wining Room studies—and hundreds of investigations of psychotherapy and the placeto effect—showed that, within broad timits, the mere fact of treatment/attention/10oing Something About It! has more effect than the form or content of the treatment.

How this applies in numismatics is, in retrospect, obvious enough. Publishing a variety as very rare and worth X dollars stimulates collectors and dealers to find other specimens, rendering any such rarity rating and/or value estimates untrustworthy. Publishing a rarity scale or value scale unpredictably affects the ratings of most items these scales attempt to describe. And the more carefully that the scale is constructed, the more sensitive it becomes to these effects. This is partly why the GUIDEBOOK is always at least a year out of date on prices; why the gray sheet and 'trends' pages become obsolete as quickly as they do. Price high comething you're promoting, and you create both demand and skeptisism—and often the unexpected appearance of it in quantity. (For a netorious recent instance, look at what happened to the market in fractional pioneen gold aften the Doering book appeared with those fantastically high prices.)

Within a year after EARLY AMERICAN CENTS appeared in print, some dealers and major specialist collectors (including even George H. Clapp: PENNY WHIMSY, p. 53) were already saying that the basal values were too high. By 1954, we were all aware that some basal values were high, others low. By 1958, the whole picture had unrecognizably changed. The 'Observation Series' (in which I attributed over 30,000 unpicked large cents) affected rarity ratings from R2 athrough R8/raising a few, lowering many, but only in a small minority of instances affecting the Condition Census. But this was only part of the problem. It can have the RAID but with the RAZITY.

Sheldon had created much of it already in 1949 by forecasting a direction for

Sheldon had created much of it already in 1949 by forecasting a direction for collecting: "... a whole continent of numismatic distance does exist between Extra Fine and Mint State. It probably can be mapped as accurately as the distance between Fair and EF has been mapped, and this may constitute one of the pleasant exercises in numismatics." (Quoted in PENNY WHIMSY, p. 38) What it proved instead to 'constitute' was a nightmare, from which we have not yet managed to wake up! (If you doubt me, listen and read the ongoing controversies about the propriety of grading Morgan dollars in the range between 58 and 69 – numerical grades which Sheldon had refused to apply to cents and which have never been standardized for any other denomination.)

We are farther now from Sheldon's dream of a 'science of cent values' than we thought we were in 1950; but at least we know it, which he never did. Sheldon's other dreams were of scientific classification systems for human beings and for coins — loosely based on the classification and judging systems used for show animals back in the Rhode Island farm country in which he grow up. We are a little nearen to seeing those dreams some true, thanks to technological advances and to-descriptive methods unknown in Sheldon's day; but as in most dreams, the fulfillment unpredictably differs from what the dreamers expected.

Shelden's divinatory dream-of classifying humans, from disease predise positions to developmental potentials, inspired me for years, even after I moved to the West Coast-and out-of his-orbit. It had just enough going for it to make me continue to believe that it might help in understanding-individuals and societies, from medical and/or sociological-perspectives. I not only studied some of Sheldon's files, I even took a course from him at Columbia University ("Human Variation III") as part of a pre-medical curriculum, which —at his unique—I was studying at night during 1955-57. Dr., Sheldon did me the seeming favor of writing a letter of recommendation which I could use in application to medical schools. I wanted to become a diagnostician, using his techniques among others, not only-for-helping patients, but for eventually reconstructing some reasonable alternative to Sheldon's own bugaboos (ebfuseatory Freudian jargon and behaviorist oversimplifications).

Atas for my own-dream: —Sheldon's glowing recommendation; ostencibly favorable;—preved-on-close re-reading to be a covert-between-the-lines-attack, guarantee ing-that I would not-be-admitted. —When I realized this in-the-1960'e; I bitterly wished-that he had been honest-enough with me-to-tell me-that medical schools were-fiercely-competitive, favoring the ruthless and the inscrupulous who-could most-effectively-wear-the-mask of upward-mobile conformity. —I wished what he had told me the truth about how-incompatible medical-school would be with my own-temperament—medical-training-required qualities that I not only-could not develop but which I-found-repugnant-and impossible even to pretend to. I amequamish about blood to the extent-that I cannot-stand to watch high-tech horner mevies (let-alone newscasts of the gnislier car accidents, or those TV

Uplisted in my

documentances showing mutilated corpses in Viet Nam). Sheldon know this at the time, but he neven attempted to advise me about a misplaced ambition he himself had announaged. This I had no practice expect a after all, he had repeatedly natvised young people wheet mesomurphy as accord only 6 or 6.5 (nather than the tep figure of 7) to give up any Verational plan of professional athletics as a misquided ambition.

I early encountered criticisms of Sheldon's work, mostly partisan rather than methodological; and perhaps too often I attempted to defend him against at least the more stupid ones. Shelden had been a pupil of Freud, Adlen, and lung, but he broke with the whole denth-psychology approach because the latter is blind to edifferential diagnesis. If the unresolved Oddinus conflict is as universal as Freud alleged symptoms while his hnothers don't? Way will one turn into a jolly extra vent, another into a mache fighten, a thind into a necluse? If the eight of blood in shildhood is so uniformly traumatic, why will one penson react by becoming a doctor or nurce, while another becomes a butchen, mencenary soldier, or sextentunen? At the other extreme, because Shelden had because John R. Watson, he to loathe Watconian behavionism and its imitatons (whom he called, in ac Continuate wand chaice Tenvironmentalists!), up to and including R. F. Skinner. Rehavionism ignored phylogs differences in hebavional style which to Shaldon were more important than the statistical similarities. Sheldon was fond of queting with contempt Watson's lines (in PEHAVIORISM, N.Y.: Norton, 1030, p. 104): "Give me a dozen healthy infante, well-formed, and my own specified world to bring them up in, and I'll guarantee to take any one at random and train him to become any type of openialist that I might coloct - dector, lawyer, artist, merchant chief, and yes, even beggan-man and thief, regardless of his talente, penchants, tendencies, abilities, vesitions, and nace of his anesetors." Shelden told me repeatedly how Watson was given to repeating this brag in many places and contexts, and that he had himself heard Watson say it on one cocasion, replacing Watson's irrational argument against freedom of speech ibid, p. 203 feetnets). Defending Shelden's approach against such tunkeys was easy and cometimes even fun: but I learned only laten that for some of his views less defense was possible, and for others none at all.

White Shelden worked on problems in these areas, dags at his heels kept yapping assusations that he was both a closet 'parvert' and a nacist. Four reasons he refused to discuse, he would neven issue denials of either, and he said some asscientific things which I could not tolerate. He did insist that there was no sexual component in his delight over semaletype photographs of particularly well-tuilt humans (Ihigh theomeonatio), while admitting that discussing this variable in any detail was 'undemograph'. (Today, it would be called 'politically incornect' and 'locker ism'.) Sheldon was by turns contempuously tolerant and charpily entitical of gay people—but not much more so than of Froudians. Nevertheless, it is Not in hard to forgive a scientist such most solontific homophobic lassifications (in UNARKIDE VITTES OF OSLINQUENT YOUTH) as his 'homosexualitas any sole hollous' He repeatedly inclided to me that he was not a racist, but repeatedly in the same convention he made anti-Semitio remarks which I found inscientific and affective.

A complacent follower of English Enlightenment delists, he attempted to redefine religion as 'eniontation in time'. He nevertheless as fifed a myetical experience equally with the more dectainaire religioner recition I sould not a well as we'll be a we'll be a well as we'll be a we

telenate without shuddens, especially after I began having such experiences (even dougless). In his refusal to accept data from other states of consciouences as anything better than delusions, and in some other attitudes, he was uncomfortably elect to Aya Pand, although I never heard him quote her.

His political philocophy was 18th century nationalism with a night-wing libentanian flavon, and an absolute dedication to the English language as the best possible universal tengue and the only one worth speaking. His litenary models were Addison and Steeler he respected few later writtens and apparently no fiction. He repeatedly sighed for the good old days, about 1932-33, when the dellar was exilt really worth comething!, as oblivious as Manie Antoinette to the fast that people then were starwing in the streets. He had done some psychothenapy in the 1930's, largely involving expensive physical traval with each patient to his/hen childhood locales, to re-stimulate bunied memonies.

Auctionase a still worse issue, although he had also used it in his 1930's thenapoution he despised most kinds since the mid-19th century as "waster music", he sneeningly compared chonal music (even Bash, whom he always rhymod with chatch) to avail intensounce, and his musical ideal was always come high. Not a profest quality banitone solo in some "Promethean" piece of Kitsch, tike The Hoty Otty". I sould never get him to define "Promethean" (let alone "Ephimethean" or "waster") which in a musical on artistic or lite rany context — he was fond of applying these labele of UNISTE: anything and everything even outside the cultural context fon which he had deviced them in PSYCHOLOGY AND THE PROMETHEAN WILL. Like Eroud, though the like Jung, (to whom he was closer in come medes of thought), Shelden tended to divide all reality into three-component systems: a useful metaphon, though one too eachly micapplied.

Understandably, when I left NYC for Berkeley in October, 1960, I knew that I was turning my back on many of his ideas, not to return. I left without feeling guilty for abandoning one who had been one of my mentors – I knew that whatever my eventual path would be in or out of coins, it would not be as his disciple. I could not be a Nathanial Brandon to his An Band, let alone an Arietable to his Plate. Idealegically, we were almostly a galaxy aparty, and so the 1960be shanged the world – and my own mind – we diverged still further, though I never dared to tell him so as I did not wish to hurt him. I could go on respecting him for his awe-some scientific achievements in and out of coins. I preferred to remember him that way, rather than for a 'let 'em est cake' political posture I could not over womenthize with.

In accepting the EAC assignment to write the new book on early cents to replace PENNY WHIMSY, I felt less like Elisha putting on the prophet's mantle of Elijah, than like a young scholar trying to shake off the vast influence of a predecessor in whom I could no longer believe. The book, so far from being a mere updating of PENNY WHIMSY, must instead be a complete re-thinking of its subject matter, using scientific comparison methods unknown in Sheldon's day, but neither his words nor his style. Somehow, I feel that up there in the Great Laboratory in the Sky, Sheldon would understand.

Walter Breen forwarded the above article to PENNY-WISE, stating that he had originally intended it for the 100th issue of P-W but that he did not get it finished in time. "Now that it is completed", he said, "I enclose a copy, realizing that it is probably too long for P-W and too specialized for almost anywhere elsenot to mention that it would probably be attacked as too embittered. Or maybe you will feel differently about it?" The Editor did, and he hopes that you will too. You will have to read through it several times to really appreciate it, but we think the article definitely needs to be printed. Shower in The Hall is LAPP coming from??

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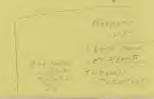
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Dear Jalm,

The the Third Portograph of Jaw Persen of the "Encyclopedia of Logoridea on Half Costs," all Published in P.W. (9/5/64) should be Commented ow. I'm aware of the fact that Fraul wilkinson got the EAC Oopy that you shill review shally after the your review was written, as your May be at a slight sheadwantage.

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Octiber 1981 Breen stated chat he was going to apent 3 weeks writing the tent at Jack Gallens House! At activally took him until December 1981 to Complete it. Breen atwitted with his 1966 Manuapt, and then compared it with My 1971 ferre edition. Price to the time Breen had refused to leave acknowledge the Presipitate a low-suit His "barrowing" from My book May Presipitate a low-suit as it set trops in My books four just such an accurrence. It did this shee to Breens Price actions against Howard

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Thus your statement in regard to the writer state of the texto is Completely Folse!!!

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Howing desposed of your explorements of the Presented Ocnomaly" you may be entorested why it exect. The have receiou is that Breen has been out of Half cout Callestey sense the late 1960s! at that time as it understood it a fan Hanson asquired her Gain calcertin. These Housen became the surrogate Breen in the Half Court field. Weren house on envelope from Ray Muscle's callester which refers to " The firsthomen Brean - Housen book on Half Cent". Hanson is brown throughout the Half Court Juli ces "The Great Black Hale" due to his calleding activity and his refusal to share information with other Callerin, who he contemptously refers to as The little scoring Mice" . It The publication of My First edition Cought Breen and Hanson Completely off Guard. It also established the atmosphere of a Foruir for the free exchange of Information . Pleny-Wire war great help. You Miget neview what Was Publishedow Harf Cours in the front 4 years 1967-1971 to the Next 4 years 1972-1976 on the subject of Half aluts. Housen did Nat Partisque in The 1-see exchange due to his busic attende, Breen die Nat Participate other them a 1973 exchange at letters Prompter by Milt Pfeffer in which he came out 2 rd. The proof of the is see what he wrote about 1797's in 1973 and Compare What he wrote in his book! He has forme one Completely To My Basilin as Let farith in My Fout (1971) edition.

What has happend is there has a whale

New Group of Callestus, hard oung book, which who

offend Breen and Hanson by the use of My Numberia,

Cystem! They are Net Teed to the Ruch as Breen and

thousan have tred callestust to them. White

Escott 1985

Consept was expressed by Jack callest to a

former Breen - Hanson adherent as balloris

"The Publication of Breene book is a Beder lisee, you're

either on over side our Cakers side "

We have Never Considered it a "Reds" esser thus we have such itemp as a Number of Dalleelus

Melpiy on Breen back, to the extent they are allowed and so, but they have No ill will from Me for doing so. I love furnished a Gain for their food (for which they have Not even admolected!) and to delid Nat Valueteer any they Mare that then what they asked Me. Needless to song walter has sorewed it up in his book. (1800 ia (8 tota 11) P. 185)

Il m Davy to have sait of souther from the "anomaly" quatur but of that the factorized helps explien. When it loves to the year of we mayer read what Breen Lags. The wearly like the, " R - 6 weak in he R-7 but the ker to along prehow May be an R-5". When in fact if and have noted the Variety R-5 & Soule years ago! What Waller is source is itset, the court assess she lower souts which to true! Thus I sounder what hewrote on roung to be. Meslevely, inconsume and a total botch. It will be some time before this Bullshit Dan he Put to seet, the adolition your Will Note that he Complain of choose decher when others do it but its cute when he shift boul in the 1950's and 1960's. He also complains of the low aproults of My Com Pealund in the Serel Robelton () sex revise of Mg Ferst Edular) but My ferst edition had Coin Photographed that Made it as that cain could he Oherry Buchel!

The Condition Census # Son Howson is a laugh ! Breen can Hauson soon contracted look other and Number of accassing. This is faulty editing of the book. Som Hauson has covered up his lack of Condition Census bendeste Ily listing coin from another Carolina Catalogues that home been unlacated for oner to glass. Due to his own action he has Nat been informed of New discoveries! His Pastion

Thou

in hein "The great black hole" how Made it 20 that Vary Saw Callector Report Lends to him. He is ont of date out Many Resphe can Nat stand his snotty attitude.

So John, to said of wind up this I holome that your statement in regard to the Manuscripts was father from Boscen can Josh Gallier + and as well the so Many things in "THAT OTHER 1306" its Just a lat of BULL SHIT! though your delin't recognize it as such.

Sercores, Bagen

P.S. Could you send Me a Pressey of the Cain While you recently got from Front W.